SECRET

1 DEC 1958

SUBJECT: Project DISCOVERY

TO: Assistant Vice Chief of Staff
Headquarters USAF
Washington 25, D.C.

1. It is my understanding that the questions asked in sub-paragraphs 2a through 2g of your letter (subject classified) of 19 November 1958 have been adequately answered by a Memorandum from Mr. Bissell dated 25 November 1958 and in intervening conferences. It is my further understanding that as a result of our discussion with General Schriever you no longer require the document mentioned in sub-paragraph 2f.

2. Relative to Air Staff participation, the DISCOVERY program should be handled as an Air Force SECRET program through channels already established for SENTRY and with equal priority. Appropriate offices in the Deputy Chiefs, in AFOIN, AAFIN, AFOMO and AFOOP have been cleared on the special aspects and for the past several months have assisted periodically. While an Air Staff focal point is desirable, such an office must have a self-evident reason for leading the participation in an exclusively "R&D" program. My recommendation, and that of Air Staff representatives present at our 1 December meeting, is that the Director of Advanced Technology, assisted by one designated subordinate, be the Air Staff focal point. The above mentioned specially cleared offices should assist AFDAT as required in determining any future overall USAF requirements and policies in support of the currently established program.

3. It appears to me that if the cover plans are at all satisfactory then the DISCOVERY program can be supported by any Air Force element on an "as required" basis. Suitable directives can be generated by normal Air Staff action through the procedure mentioned above upon request or in accordance with the normal DISCOVERY Development Plan.

4. The following comments concern the funding problems mentioned in sub-paragraph 2h of your 19 November 1958 letter and in your 24 November 1958 letter:

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a. Generally, the project is limited to a research and development effort. As such, funding responsibility rests with ARPA. Operational requirements, even though initially utilized in support of the effort, are the funding responsibility of the Air Force, Navy or other Service or Department as appropriate. The details of funding for specific items within these general guidelines must be derived by referral to the approved program and by coordination between the Air Force, OSD, et al. As of November 15, such detailed understanding was in hand. Since that date the subject of "funding" is again under study due to the desire on the part of ARPA to modify the program.

b. Administratively, the Under Secretary of the Air Force has requested that ARPA funding and programs be channelled into the Air Staff to assure coordination and review. This procedure will serve to eliminate the problems arising early in the program wherein ARPA dealt directly with Air Force subordinate commands - SAC, ARDC, CINC Alaskan, etc.

c. With respect to those items for which procurement is sensitive, Mr. Bissell's group has undertaken to furnish same. There are no problems in this area.

d. As regards FY 1960 budgeting, discussions held with the Secretary and Under Secretary of Defense on 25 November indicate preliminary approval of a need to augment ARPA funding. The dollar amounts finally approved will be derived by re-programming. They will not be itemized in the Congressional submit. Certain FY 1960 construction needs (Air Force) will be budgeted under the WS-117L program. Such matters as procurement of four (4) added THOR missiles, though currently unresolved, would eventually be funded, by re-programming, when finally approved.

5. Your letter (subject classified) of 24 November 1958 asked my comments relative to a public information release on DISCOVERY. I agree with the substance of the release and of the comments prepared for Secretary McElroy. It is very urgent that the release be made almost immediately in order to forestall the increasing number of erroneous press speculations.

6. In addition to the aspects mentioned in your letter, there are two others which deserve mention:

a. It is mandatory for reasons of security and it is our intent to make a complete administrative separation

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of [redacted] from [redacted]. This primarily is a matter of documentary and program review separation and will be accomplished by AFNMD. Some implementing Air Staff action probably will be required. AFNMD can coordinate directly with the Air Staff focal point. It should be borne in mind that both [redacted] and [redacted] are managed by one Program Office and by one prime contractor - Lockheed. The field management of the programs is therefore inseparable. However, the time separation of the two programs and the actual physical separation of the sensitive operations adequately provide for both cover and security.

b. It is expected that Executive Office approval will be required to initiate and continue firings in the [redacted] series. The following procedure is suggested. Mr. Bissell will be responsible for informing General Goodpaster of the anticipated schedule of firings and results hoped to be obtained from each firing. After coordination with NRO, the Secretary of the Air Force and DOD levels, and ARPA. In the event no objections are raised to initiation of the [redacted] series by the Executive Office, all participant agencies agree that AFNMD, as agent, will proceed to fire such vehicle as determined by technical considerations, and as determined by weather considerations as furnished by Mr. Bissell's group to AFNMD. Subsequent to each firing a report will be made to the Executive Office by Mr. Bissell, after appropriate coordination, of results and reaction experienced, and, in the event of no objections from the Executive Office, subsequent firings in series will be made pursuant to the existent schedule.

SIGNED

S. E. ANDERSON
Lieutenant General, USAF
Commander

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